

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

OPIC-03 SAJ-01 /074 W

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R 091703Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6285

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1511

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE FONMIN VISITS TEHRAN, ATHENS

REF: LISBON 1316 (DTG 011441Z MAR 76)

SUMMARY: DURING RECENT VISIT TO TEHRAN, PORTUGUESE FONMIN
MELO ANTUNES EXPANDED ON HIS VIEW OF PORTUGAL'S ROLE VIS-A-VIS
THIRD WORLD. ONCE AGAIN HE RETURNED EMPTY HANDED. END SUMMARY.

1. PORTUGUESE FONMIN ERNESTO MELO ANTUNES PAID OFFICIAL
VISIT TO IRAN MARCH 2-6 (REFTEL). IN FIRST HIGH-LEVEL
GOP CONTACTS WITH GOI SINCE APRIL 1974 COUP, ANTUNES WAS
RECEIVED BY SHAH AND MET WITH IRANIAN FOREIGN AND
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COMMERCE MINISTERS. ACCORDING TO PORTUGUESE FOREIGN

OFFICE, NO FINAL COMMUNIQUE ON VISIT HAS BEEN RELEASED. PRIOR TO DEPARTING FOR TEHRAN, ANTUNES HAD EXPRESSED HOPE HIS VISIT WOULD LEAD TO INCREASED TRADE AND GREATER BILATERAL COOPERATION IN INDUSTRIAL AND ENERGY SECTORS.

2. TEHRAN VISIT GAVE ANTUNES OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND ON A FAVORITE SUBJECT, PORTUGUESE RELATIONS WITH THIRD WORLD. IN COMMENTS DURING TRIP, HE DESCRIBED PORTUGAL AS BEING ON THE UNDERDEVELOPED "PERIPHERY" OF THE INDUSTRIAL EUROPEAN "CENTER." ALTHOUGH GEOGRAPHICALLY LINKED TO EUROPE, PORTUGAL SHARED MANY COMMON INTERESTS WITH THE DEVELOPING, RAW MATERIAL PRODUCING THIRD WORLD. AS SUCH, PORTUGAL WAS UNIQUELY SUITED TO SERVE AS "PIVOT" BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS.

3. ON HIS RETURN TRIP TO LISBON, MELO ANTUNES STOPPED MARCH 6 AND 7 IN ATHENS FOR UNOFFICIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS GREEK COUNTERPART AND LOCAL POLITICAL FIGURES. HE ARRIVED IN LISBON MARCH 8.

4. FOREIGN OFFICE ANNOUNCED MARCH 8 THAT ANTUNES WILL MAKE OFFICIAL VISIT TO POLAND MARCH 13-16.

5. COMMENT: IMPLICIT IN MELO ANTUNES'S VIEW OF PORTUGAL'S "PIVOT" ROLE BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS IS THAT PORTUGAL WILL REAP CONCRETE BENEFITS FROM THE RELATIONSHIP. THE FONMIN'S EMPTY HANDED RETURN FROM TEHRAN WILL DO LITTLE TO POLARIZE HIS THEORIES.
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